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**R**EPORT

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**STATUS OF RHODESIAN  
AIRFIELDS**

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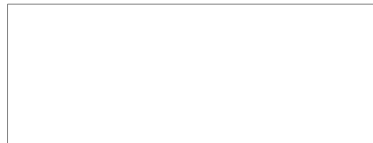
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**STATUS OF RHODESIAN AIRFIELDS**

1. This report summarizes construction and improvements to airfields in Rhodesia observed on recent KEYHOLE photography. Figure 1 shows the location of these airfields and is keyed to Table 1, which shows the status of the construction and improvements. A description of construction and improvements at these airfields follows.

2. Wankie National Park Airfield (Figure 2), a joint civilian and military airfield, is in the Wankie National Game Park, approximately 30 nautical miles (nm) south of the Zambian border. The airfield has an approximately 4,640- by 30-meter (15,225- by 100-foot), east-northeast/west-southwest serviceable blacktop runway with separate civilian and military support facilities. The civilian support area, which contains a terminal building and an operations building with a control tower, is at the west end of the facility. The newly constructed military support area consists of a concrete parking apron protected by earthen embankments and contains a total of eight single-bay aircraft shelters. [redacted] no fighter aircraft had been seen at this airfield.

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3. A new east/west runway, approximately 2,850 meters (9,350 feet) long, was seen under construction at Gwelo/Thornhill Airfield (Figure 3). Construction was first observed [redacted] Hawker Hunter, Vampire, and transport aircraft are regularly seen at this facility.

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4. An approximately 3,000-meter (9,850-foot) graded-earth area for a new northwest/southeast runway has been observed at Chiredzi/Buffalo Range Airfield (Figure 4) in southeastern Rhodesia, approximately 50 nm from the Mozambique border. The initial clearing and grading for the new runway was first seen on photography [redacted]. The present runway is approximately 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) long. Small straight-wing aircraft and helicopters are usually seen at this installation.

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5. Five forward airfields with either new or improved facilities have been identified along the Mozambique border (Table 1). Each of these airfields has either a blacktopped or natural-surfaced runway, approximately 1,220 meters (4,000 feet) long. Mtoko Airfield New (Figure 5) is representative of these facilities. Small straight-wing observation aircraft and probably Alouette III helicopters were at Mtoko Airfield New [redacted]. Small straight-wing aircraft were at Mount Darwin Airfield New [redacted]. In addition, at least six small helicopters were in an open area on the southern edge of a town southeast of the airfield. No aircraft were observed at Tsuru, Nyanyadzi, or Mtoko East airfields [redacted].

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**REFERENCES**

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**REQUIREMENT**

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Table 1. Airfield Construction and Improvements  
(Items keyed to Figure 1)

| Item | Airfield                        | Construction Status           |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1    | Wankie National Park Airfield   | New military support area     |
| 2    | Gwelo/Thornhill Airfield        | New runway under construction |
| 3    | Chiredzi/Buffalo Range Airfield | New runway under construction |
| 4    | Mount Darwin Airfield New       | New airfield                  |
| 5    | Mtoko Airfield New              | New airfield                  |
| 6    | Tsuro Airfield                  | Runway surfaced               |
| 7    | Mtoko Airfield East             | New airfield                  |
| 8    | Nyanyadizi Airfield             | New runway                    |

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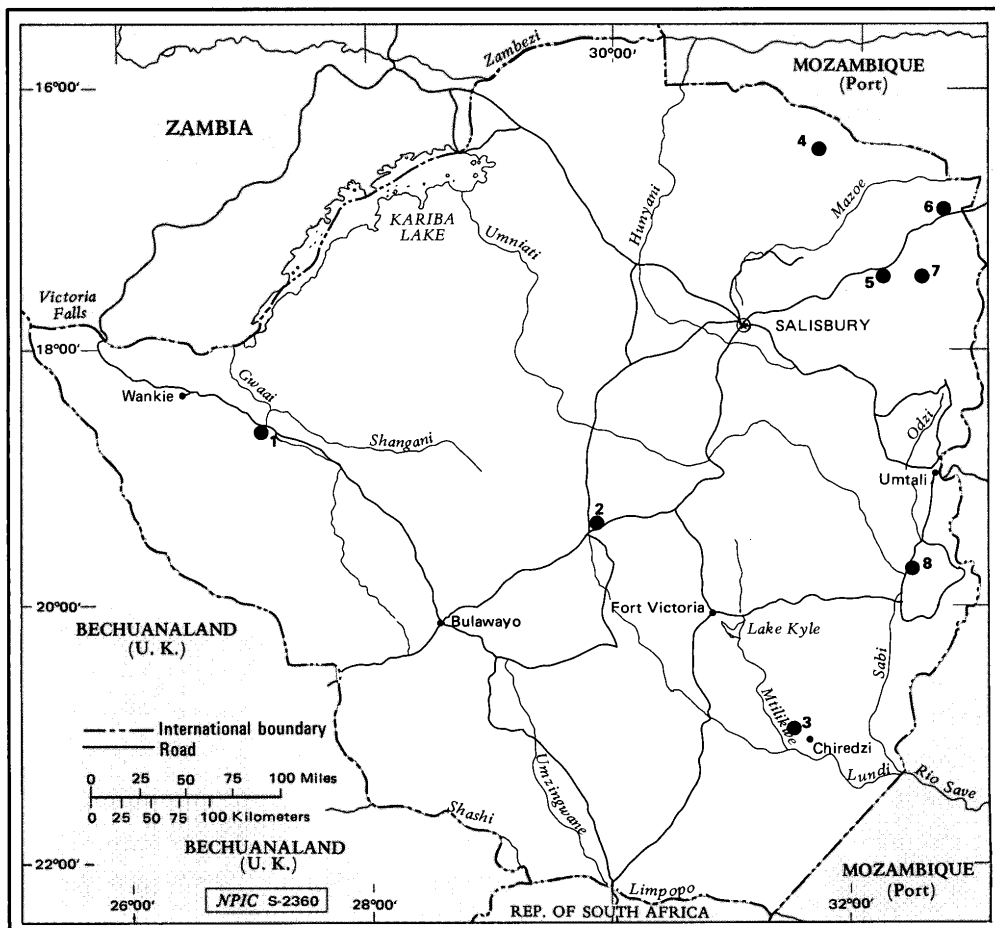


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN RHODESIA

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